

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A password management system, comprising:
graphical user interface logic operable to receive a current password from a user, prompt the user to determine whether the user desires to change the current password, and responsive to the user response receive a new password;
password confirmation logic operable to confirm the current password associated with the user on a switched access remote test system; ~~and~~
password administration logic, responsive to the password confirmation logic and the graphical user interface, operable to receive the new password and to change the current password on the switched access remote test system; and
expiration logic operable to determine if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system and is operable to cause the user to be prompted to change the current password if the current password is determined to be approaching its expiration.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the password confirmation logic is operable to send the current password to the switched access remote test system and receive a response from the switched access remote test system.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the password confirmation logic is operable to compare the response with a plurality of expected responses and determine whether the current password provided by the user is valid.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the response is an alphanumeric string, and the plurality of expected responses comprises erroneous responses and successful responses.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the password confirmation logic is operable to instruct the graphical user interface logic to provide any of a plurality of error messages to the user upon the password confirmation logic determining that the current password provided by the user is not valid.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the password administration logic performs a password change upon receiving a request to change the password from the graphical user interface.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the password administration logic performs a password change upon receiving a confirmation of the password from the password confirmation logic.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the password administration logic is operable to send the current password and the new password to the switched access remote test system and receive a response from the switched access remote test system, and compare the response to a plurality of expected responses

9. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the password administration logic is operable to instruct the graphical user interface logic to provide any of a plurality of error messages to the user upon the password administration logic determining that the new password provided by the user was not accepted by the switched access remote test system.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising:
a password file operable to store a set of data comprising the expiration date of the current password[[:]], wherein the expiration logic is operable to read the password file and request that the graphical user interface notify the user that the current password is nearing expiration responsive to the expiration date.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the password management system is operable to interact with at least two switched access remote testing systems through a second graphical user interface that forms a wrapper for said at least two switched access remote testing systems.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of managing passwords, comprising the ~~steps of~~:

providing a user with a graphical user interface;

receiving a current password from the user via the graphical user interface for a switched access remote test system;

determining if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system;

prompting the user on whether to change the current password;

receiving a new password from the user responsive to the user response to the prompting;

confirming the current password with the switched access remote test system;

and

requesting that the switched access remote test system change the password responsive to the user response to the prompting.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the confirming the current password further comprises ~~the steps of~~:

sending the current password to the switched access remote test system; and

receiving a response from the switched access remote test system.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the confirming the current password further comprises ~~the step of~~ comparing the response from the switched access remote test system with a plurality of expected responses.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the confirming the current password further comprises ~~the step of~~ notifying the user of an error responsive to ~~the comparing step~~ the response from the switched access remote test system.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the requesting that the switched access remote test system change the password responsive to the user response to the ~~prompt~~ prompting step further comprises sending the new password to the switched access remote test system along with the current password.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the requesting that the switched access remote test system change the password responsive to the user response to the ~~prompt~~ prompting step further comprises receiving a response from the switched access remote test system after sending the new password.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, further comprising ~~the step of~~ comparing the received response with a plurality of expected responses.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising ~~the step of~~ providing an error message to the user responsive to the comparing step the received response.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising ~~the steps of~~:

reading a password file to determine an expiration date associated with the current password; and

prompting the user to change the password responsive to determination of the expiration date.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium having a program for managing passwords, the program operable to perform ~~the steps of~~:
providing a user with a graphical user interface;
receiving a current password from the user via the graphical user interface for a switched access remote test system;
prompting the user on whether to change the current password;
determining if the current password is approaching its expiration prior to logging onto the switched access remote test system;
receiving a new password from the user responsive to the user response to the prompting; confirming the current password with the switched access remote test system;
requesting that the switched access remote test system change the password responsive to the user response to the prompting.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the confirming the current password further comprises ~~the steps of~~:
sending the current password to the switched access remote test system; and
receiving a response from the switched access remote test system.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the confirming the current password further comprises ~~the step of~~ comparing the response from the switched access remote test system with a plurality of expected responses.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein the confirming the current password further comprises ~~the step of~~ notifying the user of an error responsive to the comparing step the response from the switched access remote test system.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the requesting that the switched access remote test system change the password responsive to the user response to the ~~prompt~~ prompting step further comprises sending the new password to the switched access remote test system along with the current password.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the requesting that the switched access remote test system change the password responsive to the user response to the ~~prompt~~ prompting step further comprises receiving a response from the switched access remote test system after sending the new password.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 26, the program further operable to perform ~~the step of~~ comparing the received response with a plurality of expected responses.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 27, the program further operable to perform ~~the step of~~ providing an error message to the user responsive to the comparing ~~step~~ the received response.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 21, the program further operable to perform ~~the steps of~~:

reading a password file to determine an expiration date associated with the current password; and

prompting the user to change the password responsive to determination of the expiration date.